

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 have been examined. Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9-16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 are all the claims pending in the application.

***Substantive rejections***

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Nihei, which is previously of record. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 to recite the feature wherein the selection process in the selection step is executed as the following selection processes (a) or (b): (a) a selection process on output data predetermined based on attributes of the output destination device; (b) a selection process on output data based on setting in an output data selection table that associates identification data for a plurality of destination devices with various output or non-output data of the composite image, original image, and combining data. Applicant notes that the claims as amended were found to be patentable in the Japanese counterpart application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the art of record teaches or otherwise discloses the feature, as recited above, and therefore claims 1 and 5 are patentable for this reason. Claims 4 and 8 are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Application No.: 09/987,076

Attorney Docket No.: Q66742

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

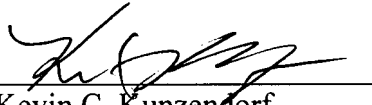
Respectfully submitted,

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